S
362.733
S6F
1974 APR-MAY
1

Montana State Library
3 0864 1004 9887 5

STATE DOCUMENTS

Montana's Foster Parent

JUL 12 1974

sharing **News** caring

challenging

Ann Burds Social and Rehabilitation Services Helena, Montana
836 Front Street
April - May '74

Dear Foster Parents:

The general format of this issue of Montana's Foster Parent News will be a bit different than in the past. The information inside mostly deals with the newly formed state foster parent organization --- minutes of the meeting, lists of committees, regional representatives, etc. and also reports on the National Conference. So, hopefully, you'll want to keep this issue on hand for continual reference throughout the coming year. If you have any questions relating to foster care practices, you'll find the people on these lists most helpful and cooperative.

In fact, speaking of helpful and cooperating, a special thank you is in order to all the foster parents, social workers, and SRS personnel who worked so diligently to bring about the successful state organization. The key word is PROGRESS, a great deal has been accomplished this past year and there's so much more to be done. It all looks good on paper, now the effort is in carrying out these goals, maintaining every ounce of enthusiasm, and spreading it to the rest of the foster parents in the state.

YOU can make it happen.

Ann Burds

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

G R A D U A T E S

You can reach great heights
if you consistently stay
on the level.

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
930 East Lyndale Avenue
Helena, Montana 59601

M I N U T E S

The First Montana State Foster Parents Organization, Inc. met May 4, 1974 with Steering Committee Chairman, John Lombardo presiding.

A report was given by Jessie Schlinger on the National Foster Parents Conference which was held in Spokane, Washington. The theme was "Love is not Enough" and the programs followed this theme with ideas and education helping foster parents learn about handling some of the more difficult problems. There were approximately 56 foster parents and social workers from Montana in Spokane.

The Chairman announced the election of officers as follows: President, John Lombardo; Vice-President, Edith West; Corresponding Secretary, Pat Stiger; Recording Secretary, Jessie Schlinger; Treasurer, Anita Siminson. President John Lombardo introduced officers to the group.

Several goals were set by the President:

1. Better relationship with State and Local Offices.
2. Independent of agency, keeping in mind we are partners in working out best solution for the children.
3. Money, we must have a healthy treasury.
4. Special educational projects for foster children.
5. Better legislation and information on the good legislation no now being introduced by State Office.

The Standing Committees were then announced by President John Lombardo. (They can be found on another page in this newsletter.)

The President introduced Mr. Ted Carkulis, Director of SRS and Lt. Governor, Bill Christianson. The Bill of Rights for Foster Children was signed by these two men.

Regional Representatives, alternates and social workers were then appointed.

Shirley Miller and Jim Pippard gave a joint talk on the legislative process. They explained that the members of the State Organization would serve as a vehicle to help lobby for legislation for children.

Several good bills that were killed were mentioned, such as (1) Right to know, (2) Rights of fathers, (3) Black Market adoptions and (4) subsized adoption which needs more legislation to make this bill adequate, (5) Liability Insurance. We need to work on child abuse and dependent laws, and increase in foster home payments. These are just a few areas that are vital.

Shirley Miller passed out handbooks and explained about the importance of Foster Parents helping on legislature. Suggested geeting a list of candidates that won, and look at their voting on the bills we're interested in. Ask them to speak at our group meeting, keeping in mind; how busy they are, set time limits on talks, stick to only 2 or 3 issues. Use this information wisely. Shirley and Jim demonstrated the right way to question your legislature. They would like to see legislature help finance education and training for foster parents. Also standardized payments through all agencys'.

The President passed the proclamation declaring National Foster Childrens Week which Governor Judge signed so that all could see it.

Reports on Insurance followed: It is necessary for foster parents to have it. There is at the present time, no agreement on who is responsible for lawsuits, paying for lawyers. The policy presented takes over where homeowners leaves off. All State members are now covered, as of May 6, 1974. If anyone has problems they must contact Bill Kayser of Missoula.

President John Lombardo introduced SRS personnel. Norma Cutone, Bureau Chief for Family and Adult Services for SRS; Jim Pomroy, Social Services Specialist of Child Welfare Bureau for SRS; Joseph Roe, Consultant for SRS; and Clark Welch, Community Planning Coordinator for Montana Advisory Council on Children and Youth.

Gil Alexander asked for a list of agency services etc. for foster children and parents to make better communications. Lists to be given to Ann Burds to send out.

Also request for statewide booklet setting down policy to be used by foster parents.

Suggestions were called for on special programs to be presented at next State Meeting. Gil Alexander suggested this. Program sitting up clinic to help children who act out, in order to educate in all areas.

It was suggested that all areas send thank you notes to County Commissioners and asking them to include funds to sent foster parents to Atlanta next year.

Russell Josephson suggested a goal of ten new members for each old member for October.

The next meeting will be held in Kalispell in October.

It was agreed Montana would send the money for their share of the scholarship fund for Region VIII.

Regional meeting date announced as June 18.

Meeting adjourned.

Jessie Schlinger /s/
Jessie Schlinger
Recording Secretary.

Bits And Pieces ...

Local associations who are interested in listening to tapes of various sessions held at the National Conference may borrow them the MSFPO. Tapes concerning child abuse, behavior disorders in childhood and adolescence, fund raising techniques, and legislation and its affect on children are some of the topics available.

•

Special attention should be given to the foster parents from Billings who attended the National Conference on their own money due to the lack of funding from their county commissioners. Hopefully, this situation will change next year.

•

We are presently in the process of writing a scholarship application for a foster child in the Region VIII area. A specific amount of money will be contributed by each of the six states in the region. Then, this money will be pooled together and all foster children graduating from high school who wish to further their education by attending college, junior college, vocational training, nurses training, etc. will be eligible. More eligibility requirements will be available at a later date.

•

The list of all SRS agency personnel including addresses and phone numbers is now available upon request. The list also includes each of the eight district offices, the field supervisors, and the counties included in each district. If you would like a copy of this directory, please contact Ann Burds at the SRS Office.

•

Any foster parents who would like a copy of the By-Laws of the Montana State Foster Parent Organization may receive it from John Lombardo, 1934 Hauser Blvd., Helena, MT 59601.

•

50¢

50¢

WE'RE FOSTER PARENTS
HOW ABOUT YOU ?

At the National Foster Parents Conference in Spokane; Montana had a display table with posters, newletters, and scrap books from local associations in the state. Also buttons and bumper stickers were sold for 50¢ a piece. A limited supply of both are still available. If you're interested, send 50¢ for the buttons to Jessie Schlinger, 437 Sommers, Whitefish, MT 59937. And send 50¢ for the stickers to John Lombardo, 1934 Hauser Blvd, Helena, MT 59601. All profits go to foster parent associations.

Anyone who still has questions about the foster parent liability insurance, please contact Bill Kayser, 4112 Larkspur Drive, Missoula, 59801. Since he was appointed Insurance Committee Chairman, he is now the official "Insurance expert".

Membership applications for the MSFPO are now available by writing to Russ Josephson, 529 S. California, Helena, 59601, or by contacting the district representative in your area.

Now that the Montana State Foster Parents Organization has been established, there may be some questions regarding what exactly the activities will encompass. Below is a list of the Executive Board Officers, Standing Committees and purpose, and the Regional Representatives. You might wish to contact some of these people for further information.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President -- John Lombardo, 1934 Hauser, Helena, MT 59601
Vice-Pres.-- Edith West, 140 Riverview lW, Great Falls, MT 59401
Corr. Secty. -- Pat Steiger, 216 S. 36th St., Billings, MT 59101
Recd. Secty. -- Jessie Schlinger, 437 Somers, Whitefish, MT 59937
Treas. -- Anita Simonson, 34 Perth, Glasgow, MT 59230.

* * * * *

STANDING COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP

I. Recruit new members
   A. Develop a pamphlet describing MSFPO
      1. Include purposes, activities, importance of insurance
      2. Describe future plans

II. Recruit prospective foster parents
   A. Determine the need for specialized foster homes (i.e. teenagers, mentally retarded, handicapped)
      1. Coordinate efforts with local welfare offices
   B. Develop feasible training sessions
      1. Seek information from other states and counties in Montana where these sessions are presently utilized.
      2. Apply actively on a statewide basis
      3. Coordinate efforts with local welfare offices

(cont. on next pag

III. Maintain a list of all members updated
   A. Separate categorically according to dues structure
   B. Secure a list of members of local associations from their presidents
   C. Supply the above information to the Executive Board also.

Chairman - Russ Josephson, 529 S. California, Helena, MT 59601
Mary Lou Holthaus, Box 146, Yellowstone Park, Wyo. 82190
Lew West, 140 Riverview lW, Great Falls, MT 59401
Connie Essex, Forsyth, MT 59327.

* * * * *

COMMUNICATIONS

I. Write articles for Montana Foster Parent News bimonthly
   A. Local Input on information regarding foster parent associations

II. Establish a statewide Foster Friends Committee
   A. Visit local gropus and stress need for donations (bikes, camps, etc.)

III. Year round TV, radio and newspaper coverage of foster parent association events locally and statewide
   A. Special attention during National Foster Childrens' Week annually

IV. Public relations to National Foster Parent Association
   A. Inform Donna Funge, Regional Communications Chairperson of the MSFPO news

V. Determine the need of initiating a National Action for Foster Children Committee in Montana
   A. If positive interest is shown, take appropriate action

VI. Establish a resource library for MSFPO
   A. Buy foster care related films and pamphlets
   B. Distribute to local associations upon request.

Chairman - Gil Alexander, RR2, Box 317-C, Helena, MT 59601
Marietta Eby, 17061 Independence Lane, Billings, MT 59101
Shirley Lane, 2007 Hancock, Butte, MT 59701
Doris Ackerson, 1303 - 13th Ave. S.W., Great Falls, MT 59401
Alice Morse, 1621 - 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59601
Pat Mogan, Box 422, Forsyth, MT 59327
De West, 2224 Cresant, Missoula, MT 59801
Kathy Schnaid, Flathead Co. Dept. of Public Welfare, Kalispell, MT 59901
Wilma Johnston, Box 902, Glasgow, MT 59230
Edith Brewer, Rt. 1, Box 205A, Miles City, MT 59301

* * * * *

PROGRAM AND CONFERENCE

I. Plan October MSFPO meeting
   A. Use suggestion sheets from May meeting to determine foster parents priorities for the agenda
   B. Invite speakers and arrange transportation
   C. Arrange food and lodging accomadations

II. Plan May '75 MSFPO meeting
   Same as above

Chairman - Peg Anderson, 633 N. Main, Kalispell, MT 59901
and local Kalispell Area

* * * * *

FINANCE

I. Be aware of available money to strengthen the MSFPO
   A. Understand grant writing process
   B. Seek monetary donations locally

II. Determine profitable fund raising activities and take appropriate action

III. Consider investment ideas

Chairman - Marietta Eby, 17061 Independence Lane, Billings, MT 59101
Terry Essex - Forsyth, MT 59327
Bill Prichard, 350 Cresent Drive, Columbia Falls, MT 59912
Ken Marx - 2109 3rd Ave. N., Great Falls, MT 59401

* * * * *

LEGISLATURE

I. Learn the legislative process - how a bill becomes a law etc.
   A. Utilize MACCY handbook

II. Be aware of proposed legislation in the upcoming session that will affect children - special attention to that related to foster care
   A. Rules and Regulations
   B. Increase board payments
   C. Subsidized Adoption
   D. Child Abuse
   E. Liability Insurance

III. Act as lobbyists to advocate foster care legislation

IV. Communicate closely and often with state and local legislators, and SRS personnel

V. Determine priorities for '75 legislative session

Chairman - Arlene Lindsley, RR2, Columbia Falls, MT 59912
Marie Lombardo, 1934 Hauser, Helena, MT 59601
Bill Coan, 1044 S. 4th W., Missoula, MT 59801
Esther Williams, 1423 Main St., Billings, MT 59101
Sheila Lane, 2007 Hancock, Butte, MT 59701
Evelyn Meyerhoffer, 4504 A Hickory, MAFB, Great Falls, MT 59401
Al Simonson, 34 Perth, Glasgow, MT 59230
Allan Rainey, 1805 Joslyn #65, Helena, MT 59601
Debbie Gililland, 111 S. Lake, Miles City, MT 59301

* * * * *

INSURANCE

I. Secure a list of all members who are covered with liability insurance

II. Receive all complaints and seek appropriate assistance wherever deemed necessary

III.

III. Assist in processing claims

IV. Attempt to clarify coverage in lay language.

Chairman - Bill Kayser, 4112 Larkspur Dr., Missoula, MT 59801
Robbyn Josephson, 529 S. California, Helena, MT 59601
Terry Essex, Forsyth, MT 59327.

* * * * *

NOMINATIONS

I. Secure nominations for each of the executive offices in February
   A. Contact Regional Representatives for suggestions

II. Write and print ballot with brief resume's (not more than 100 words) for each candidate
   A. Turn in to recording secretary two weeks prior to general meeting in May.

Chairman - Frank Klempel, RR1, Box 53, Savage, MT 59262
Marilyn Alexander, RR2, Box 317-C, Helena, MT 59601
Rev. John Rice, Box 201, Sheridan, MT 59749.

* * * * *

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES, ALTERNATES AND SOCIAL WORKERS

Billings
Rep. - Esther Williams, 1423 Main St., Billings, MT 59101
Alt. - Marietta Eby, 17061 Independence, Billings, MT 59101
SW. - Carol Dye, Yellowstone Co. Dept. of Public Welfare, Billings, MT 59101

Butte

Rep. - Irene Edwards, 14 E. Fremout, Butte, MT 59701
Alt. - Phyllis Shelton, 115 E. Platinum, Butte, MT 59701
SW. - Veronica Smith, Silver Bow Co. Dept. of Public Welfare, Butte, MT 59701

Glasgow

Rep. - Kathy Fullerton, 833 1st Ave. S., Glasgow, MT 59230
Alt. - Harold Zundel, RR1, Wolf Point, MT 59201
SW. - Judy Skornogoski, Valley Co. Dept. of Public Welfare, Glasgow, MT 59230

Great Falls

Rep. - Doris Ackerson, 1303 13th Ave. S.W., Great Falls, MT 59401
Alt. - Lew West, 140 Riverview 1W, Great Falls, MT 59401
SW. - Harriet Ylinen, Cascade Co. Dept. of Public Welfare, Great Falls, MT 59401

Helena

Rep. - Alan Rainey, 1805 Joslyn #65, Helena, MT 59601
Alt. - Marie Lombardo, 1934 Hauser, Helena, MT 59601
SW. - Lynn Pippard, Lewis & Clark Co. Dept. of Public Welfare, Helena, MT 59601

Yellowstone

Rep. - Erna Hostetter, Shields Route, Livingston, MT 59047
Alt. - Susie Meigs, Shields Route, Livingston, MT 59047
SW. - Mary Nell Anderson, Park Co. Dept. of Public Welfare, Livingston, MT 59047

Kalispell

Rep. - Jessie Schlinger, 437 Somers, Whitefish, MT 59937
Alt. - Peg Anderson, 633 N. Main, Kalispell, MT 59901
SW. - Kathy Schnaid, Flathead Co. Dept. of Public Welfare, Kalispell, MT 59901

Missoula

Rep. - Cal Hagestad, c/o Yellowstone Trucking, RR2, Missoula, MT 59801
Alt. - Dave Reiker, 731 Shilling St., Missoula, MT 59801
SW. - Jan Foster, 818 Burlington, Missoula, MT 59801

Miles City

Rep. - Edith Brewer, R1, Box 205-A, Miles City, MT 59301
Alt. - Debbie Gililland, 111 S. Lake, Miles City, MT 59301
SW. - Mary Strouf, Custer Co. Dept. of Public Welfare, Miles City, MT 59301

State of Montana
Social and Rehabilitation Services
P. O. Box 1723
Helena, MT 59601

ATTN: Ann Burds

FIRST CLASS